



Dear Kentucky School Leader:

The top priority of every administrator, school board member, school council member and teacher is helping all students achieve academic proficiency. While each group plays a different role in this effort, their responsibilities intersect in important ways. This is especially true when it comes to reaching a common understanding of district, schools' and student assessment data. Our best hope of reaching the federal and state-mandates of proficiency by 2014 is a team effort that pairs school-level guidance with district leadership.

To help accomplish this goal, the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) and the Kentucky Association of School Councils (KASC) are continuing their training collaboration through the creation of the "*Partnership for Student Achievement*". This effort follows up on the highly successful "*Linking Leadership for Learning*" and is based on successful programs that each group currently operates. KASC uses its *Studying Your Scores* workshop to train council members in understanding their school's assessment data. KSBA uses *Advancing Student Achievement to Proficiency* (ASAP) to highlight local board roles in promoting student achievement. Though the two trainings are similar, each group previously had viewed its data in a vacuum, with interaction only among their peers.

Kentucky's school councils, which oversee school instruction, and school boards, that provide district-level policy and budget oversight, have traditionally gone their separate ways when it comes to training. This partnership marks a major change in that approach by advocating that boards and councils work in groups to examine test data by subject (math, science, writing, reading and social studies) across grade levels and student groups. The color charts, prepared specifically for each participating district and its schools, will make it easy to digest the data and spot trends. After each subject-area group reports its findings, participants will brainstorm the next steps for each group of participants: individual school councils, the local board, and central office staff.

By jointly reviewing information about student assessment scores, boards and councils will have a foundation upon which to address the weaknesses and celebrate the successes of their students' academic performance. It is the hope of both sponsoring organizations that these discussions will lead to improved communication and stronger partnerships between boards and councils, and ultimately result in higher levels of learning for all students.

We look forward to working with your district on this innovative and important task! Please contact Kerri Schelling at 1-800-373-2962 or [kschelling@ksba.org](mailto:kschelling@ksba.org) if you're interested in scheduling one of these trainings for your district or school.

Sincerely,

Bill Scott

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